

Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission
Commission Meeting
December 11, 2012

The Commission Meeting for the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission was held on Thursday December 11, 2012, at The Sloppy Floyd Government Office Building 2 MLK Jr. Drive Atlanta, GA 30334.

The following Commissioners were present:	Others Present:
Don Geary- Chairman JJ Biello -Vice Chairman Rick Thompson Ben Kiker	Kelly Farr, Executive Director Matt Woodruff Attorney General Office [Graham Barron] Vincent Russo Vincent Zagorin Matt Johnson Jared Thomas Tim Fleming Jon Marigliano
	David Oblas Amy Lynn Hogue Adrian Patrick Leon De La Garza Will Fisher Sal Cenicola Bert Wells Brett Moses WSBTv

Chairman Geary established that a quorum was present and the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission meeting that were scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

Motion to Approve the commission meeting minutes from November 5, 2012. Vice Chairman Biello made the motion. Chairman Geary seconded that motion and the commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Move to Amend the agenda. Chairman Geary made the motion, and Vice Chairman Biello seconded.

Discussion by Chairman Geary on why the restructure of the agenda is to approve some of the upcoming events with the help of the ABC to match fight cards. The ABC will only be able to help out for about a month, but it allows us to move forward today with upcoming events. Chairman Geary asked who was in favor of amending the agenda, and the commission voted 4-0 to approve

Move to Approve all events until other issues are resolved, with the help from the ABC to match the card. We will use the ABC until someone who is qualified comes in

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and can start to match these cards on our own. Chairman Geary made the motion, and Commissioner Kiker seconded.

Discussion by Vice Chairman Biello wants to make sure that we are moving forward, and again feels that Kelly Farr is more than qualified to do this job. Vice Chairman Biello has worked with Mr. Farr before for over 18 months in that role and in over 300 matches. He is not coming off letting Mr. Farr handle this role. Vice Chairman Biello will agree with the idea of ABC helping out to move forward, but wants it known that Kelly Farr is qualified for this role. Commissioner Rick Thompson does not like the whole issue of just passing the responsibility along. He stated that the commission has voted already and it was stated in that vote that Mr. Farr was not qualified for this role. Commissioner Thompson wants to find a resolution to this; he does not like farming the responsibility out to the ABC; however he will support it to move forward. He hopes that the Secretary of State will put someone on that role in the next month, who has a background in mixed martial arts and who is rightfully qualified to be able to move forward. Commissioner Thompson feels that if someone is not appointed to this role that they are not going to continue with this, because the ABC is only a quick fix. This is not a long term solution to this matter. Kelly Farr wants to thank the commission for trying to make a solution with the 30 day fix from the ABC. Mr. Farr said to the commission that this will not be resolved in 30 days, if someone other than himself to be appointed to that role. Mr. Farr does in fact feel that he is qualified to handle this job and the role that is entails. Mr. Farr has one question to the commission, on how the ABC will work with the board to approve the fight cards. Mr. Farr wanted to know how then cards will get approved, and if the commission will come back to meet on the cards. Chairman Geary said no, that is not how it works. Chairman Geary said he would explain to Mr. Farr how the cards through the ABC will be approved. Graham Barron wanted to ask for clarification that the commission is not delegating responsibility to the ABC; they are rather just seeking their assistance in this matter. Chairman Geary said that it is a delegation of some; however it is still the responsibility of the commission. The ABC has some authority, but not all. Chairman Geary said that the commission is not surrendering all of its authority. Kelly Farr then asked who has the final approval of the fight cards. Chairman Geary said that he would explain all that to Mr. Farr. Chairman Geary asked who is in favor of allowing the ABC to help with the cards for the next month, and the commission voted 4-0 to approve that motion.

Motion to Approve the commission meeting minutes from November 19, 2012. Vice Chairman Biello stated that was the conference call meeting. Chairman Geary stated that meeting was for the Bellator event permit. Rick Thompson made the motion. Chairman Geary seconded that motion and the commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Investigation Report from the Cease and Desist letter from Head Hunters Tuff Man event. Vincent Zagorin, an investigator within the Secretary of State's office, stated that on October 24, 2012, Andy Foster had received a complaint that there was to be a Tuff Man event to be held in Gainesville, GA. When Mr. Zagorin looked up the Facebook page for it, they in fact were advertising a Tuff Man Competition. Mr. Zagorin called acting as a promoter saying that he was interested in his fighter competing. He met with Mr. David Bryant, at the location in Gainesville on October 26. Mr. Zagorin

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notified him of who he was, and at that time Mr. Bryant signed a voluntary Cease and Desist order. The second person involved with this is event was Mr. Tracy Roach. After it was known who Mr. Zagorin was, Mr. Roach stopped returning calls from Mr. Zagorin, and Mr. Roach refused to sign a Cease and Desist letter. The event which was to be held November 2nd and 3rd was cancelled. Mr. Zagorin went back on the Facebook page, where a fight was scheduled for November 9th, but it was listed under KO Kings Productions. Mr. Zagorin notified Kelly Farr of this, and Mr. Farr called the KO Kings Productions promoter to see if it was a Tuff Man Event, and Mr. Farr was told it is now only an amateur boxing event sanctioned by IKF. Chairman Geary wanted to make sure that it was properly sanctioned, and Mr. Farr said it was as long as it was sanctioned by IKF.

Motion to Approve the January 19th, 2013 MMA and Boxing event permit for Wild Bills Fight Night 52. Chairman Geary asked Kelly Farr if everything that was needed for the event permit was turned in. Kelly Farr said that Atlanta Fight Night only submitted a boxing promoter's license; however they did not turn in the bond information or the secure and verifiable documents needed.

Discussion with Chairman Geary, he asked David Oblas if he submitted that information on behalf of Atlanta Fight Night. Mr. Oblas did not submit the paperwork for Atlanta Fight Night, but believes that they submitted the information the day before. Mr. Oblas wanted to know if the bond was good for a year from the time you get it, however Chairman Geary feels that it is only valid for a fight. Kelly Farr said it is a requirement of the application to submit a bond, which Atlanta Fight night did not do. Chairman Geary told Mr. Oblas to tell Atlanta Fight Night to get us the bond. Chairman Geary moved to conditionally approve the event subject to Mr. Farr getting the bond information from Atlanta Fight Night. Rick Thompson seconded. Vice Chairman Biello said that it is always been policy that all proper paperwork be submitted for an application. Mr. Oblas said that never turns in a bond for a match event, he just submits an event permit application and a check for the event. Kelly Farr said that the bond is required for the application, which Atlanta Fight Night does not have in this application. Vice Chairman Biello said that it is policy to have a proper application submitted with everything needed in it. Vice Chairman Biello would approve the MMA event permit but not the boxing. Chairman Geary understands that is our policy, but he is aware that this is not normal times and he does not want to bend or break our rules; however he does not have an issue to conditionally approve this event. Vice Chairman Biello does not want someone to come back later down the road to say you did this in the past. He wants to make sure that the rules are followed. Chairman Geary withdraws his motion. Vice Chairman Biello makes a motion to approve the MMA on January 19, 2013. Chairman Geary seconded. Rick Thompson wanted to make it known that David Oblas change his event application to reflect no boxing. The commission voted 4-0 to approve the event.

Motion to Approve the Atlanta Fight Night boxing promoter's license application. Chairman Geary asked Kelly Farr if all the proper paperwork was submitted. Mr. Farr said that is the promoter we just discussed for Mr. Oblas show. Chairman Geary said that is off the agenda.

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Motion to Approve the January 26, 2013 MMA James Corbett MMA Promotions event permit in Valdosta. Chairman Geary asked Mr. Farr if all paperwork is submitted, and Mr. Farr said he submitted his application, his check, and his letter saying the event is for charity. Chairman Geary motioned to approve the event, Rick Thompson seconded the motion. The Commission voted 4-0 to approve the event.

Motion to Approve the February 16th, 2013 MMA Combat Quest 7 event permit. Chairman Geary asked Mr. Farr if all the paperwork is submitted. Mr. Farr said that it is and that it is an all amateur event sanctioned by the ISKA. Chairman Geary made a motion to approve the event, Commissioner Ben Kiker seconded. The commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Motion to Approve the March 23rd, 2013 MMA Undisputed Productions, LLC event permit. Chairman Geary asked Mr. Farr if all the paperwork is in. Mr. Farr said that it is. Vice Chairman Biello made the motion to approve, and Chairman Geary seconded. The commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Motion to Approve the renewal of Mezereon Management INC boxing promoters license. Chairman Geary asked Mr. Farr if all paperwork is in. Mr. Farr said that they are missing the secure and verifiable documents needed. Chairman Geary said it is not a complete application then. Chairman Geary takes this request off the agenda until all proper paperwork is submitted.

Motion to Approve Leon De La Garza's new proposed fight card for December 13th, 2012. Chairman Geary told Adrian Patrick to submit the new card to the ABC to have them review it. Mr. Patrick has already submitted to the ABC, and ABC will let Mr. Farr know if that card is approved. Chairman Geary said that the event is already approved, subject to the card being approved. Chairman Geary wanted Mr. Patrick to know that they wanted him to get the information in quickly and that they will not accept a close deadline. Mr. Farr wanted to make it be known that the 13th was in two days. Chairman Geary saying that in the past cards could be changed up to the day before an event. Chairman Geary told Mr. Patrick to get the card to the ABC and have them get it to Mr. Farr.

Motion to Approve the license application for Lashaun Blair. Chairman Geary asked Mr. Farr if everything was turned in for the application, and Mr. Farr said that Mr. Blair is suspended in a lot of states based on his record, and he would not be able to get licensed in Georgia based off his record. Chairman Geary wanted to know more details on that, and Mr. Farr said Mr. Blair's record is 4-25 with a number of consecutive losses. Commissioner Ben Kiker wanted to know how many times he has been knocked out. Commissioner Thompson wanted to know what specific rule would not allow him to be licensed. Mr. Farr said he is suspended because he has lost 6 consecutive fights according to boxing official ring record and may be suspended until a hearing from the boxing commission. Chairman Geary wanted to make sure he is suspended in a few states. Commissioner Thompson said that there is no rule that does not allow the commission to approve him for a license. Mr. Farr said besides the other general concern for safety. Commissioner Thompson said we aren't approving a fight; we are simply approving his license. Mr. Farr said he is suspended here in

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Georgia as well, so the suspension would need to be released for him to have an application. Vice Chairman Biello wanted to make sure that this is just an application and wanted to know why he is suspended in Georgia. Mr. Farr said for consecutive losses. Commissioner Thompson wanted to know when the suspension took place. Mr. Farr does not know. No Motion was made, and it was struck then. Commissioner Thompson wanted to make this be resolved and not to just die away.

Motion to Approve the license application for Sal Cenicola. Chairman Geary asked Mr. Farr if everything was turned in. Mr. Farr said he has submitted an application and paid his fee. Chairman Geary asked if he is showing suspended anywhere. Mr. Farr said he is not, however it would be a violation of state law to grant him a license. Chairman Geary asked to what is a violation of state law. Mr. Farr said that O.C.G.A. § 43-4B-17. Chairman Geary said that a fighter over the age of 50 may come in front of the board to have his license approved. Chairman Geary said that the commission can request additional medicals on the fighter, which has been done in the past. Mr. Farr said that the law states a person who is 50 years of age or older shall be licensed as a professional boxer and permitted to participate in a professional match, contest, or exhibition of boxing only if such person: (1) has participated as a contestant in at least ten professional matches or contests of boxing immediately preceding ten years, including at least four professional matches or contests of boxing in the immediately preceding four years. Chairman Geary asked if Mr. Cenicola has the proper matches needed, and Mr. Farr said he does not. Sal Cenicola wanted to have his application be fairly reviewed by the commission, to see if he could go back and fight. Chairman Geary asked him by state law, are you over the age of 50, and Mr. Cenicola said yes. Chairman Geary asked by state law, have you had a minimum number of fights. Mr. Farr said he has not fought since the 1980s. Mr. Cenicola agreed saying he has not fought since the 1980s when he was a professional. Chairman Geary said we don't have the authority by our Legislator we cannot approve you for a license. Mr. Cenicola asked if there was another way to possibly change that, and Chairman Geary said you could try to get the law changed, but it probably will not happen, at least today. Mr. Solomon came forward to speak on Mr. Cenicola's behalf saying that he also is over 50 and he is licensed. Chairman Geary said it is not about the fitness of the person, it is the law, which Mr. Cenicola does not meet. Chairman Geary said the commission has no authority to change the law. Chairman Geary makes a motion to deny Sal Cenicola of his license by the operation of the law. Commissioner Kiker seconds and the commission votes 4-0 to deny.

Motion to Approve by Commissioner Thompson that Lashaun Blair's license application is denied until Mr. Blair can be present at the meeting to be in front of the commission about his suspension. Vice Chairman Biello seconds that motion. The Commission votes 4-0 to approve Mr. Blair come in front of the commission.

Motion to Approve the license application for Sterling Moore, a 54 year old MMA fighter. Chairman Geary asked Mr. Farr if everything is turned in, and Mr. Farr said that Mr. Moore is at the meeting and has the paperwork. Chairman Geary tells Mr. Moore that he will need to present the application and the paperwork to Mr. Farr for him to review. Chairman Geary asked Mr. Moore when his last fight was. Mr. Moore said Karate championships and teaches all the time. Chairman Geary asked again when

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your last fight was. Mr. Moore said a couple of year. Chairman Geary asked where you train, and Mr. Moore said at his gym in Breman, GA. Chairman Geary asked how long have you had the gym, and Mr. Moore said since 2008. Chairman Geary asked Commissioner Kiker if he knows that gym, and Commissioner Kiker said he knows the gym and that Mr. Moore is capable to compete. Chairman Geary makes a motion to deny the request today because Mr. Farr does not have the medicals and the application. Vice Chairman Biello makes the motion to have Mr. Moore on the next agenda. Chairman Geary seconds that motion, and the commission approves 4-0 to have him on next month's agenda.

Discussion with Adrian Patrick, on section § 43-4B-17 does not apply to MMA, only boxing with a fighter over the age of 50. Mr. Patrick wants to know could you table the decision on Cenicola to further look into this law. Chairman Geary said as of now the ruling on Mr. Cenicola stands.

Motion to Approve the suspension request for Rashad Jones. Chairman Geary asked Mr. Farr about the information on this issue. Mr. Farr stated that the information is in the packets. Mr. Farr then said that there are statements from Lee Palmer, Rashad Jones, and Dr. Curtis Cheeks on the events that took place. Mr. Farr states that on Adrian Patrick's November card, Mr. Jones was on the card, however the night of the event he was in the bathroom, slipped and sprained his ankle, and not able to compete. Dr. Cheeks reviewed him as the fight doctor, and the responses given by Mr. Jones did not match the answers that would give if you sprained an ankle. Chairman Geary says to his knowledge the pain of the ankle injury did not match where the pain should be. Commissioner Kiker wants to know how many fights has Mr. Jones had fought before. Adrian Patrick said he had 1 previous fight, which he had lost. Mr. Patrick said that Mr. Jones was scheduled to fight two weeks later in North Carolina on December 8th, 2012. Chairman Geary said that fighters in the past were suspended for 30 days following a fight for safety. Mr. Farr said if the fighter won it was a 7 day suspension. Chairman Geary is concerned that someone had a contract just two weeks later. Vice Chairman Biello said that a suspension length needs to be placed. Chairman Geary said it all depends on if we suspend him. Vice Chairman Biello makes a motion that Rashad Jones be suspended for one year. Commission Thompson seconds that motion.

Discussion with Commissioner Kiker feels that a year suspension is way too long, and it would end his career. He said that boxers need to stay in shape and train. Commissioner Kiker feels that 90 days would send a message to Mr. Jones, and also alerts us to future actions like this. Vice Chairman Biello said that there is nothing worse than losing a fight off a card, and not seeing the fights go through. The motion to suspend Mr. Jones for one year votes 2-2. Chairman Geary makes a new motion to suspend Rashad Jones for 6 months, Vice Chairman Biello seconds that motion. The commission votes 4-0 to suspend him for 6 months.

Discussion with the commissioners on when to establish the January commission meeting, which will be on the 17th.

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Discussion with Amy Lynn Hogue, with the fighter War Machine who was supposed after a fight with Wild Bills because he pulled out due to being sick, and he agreed to make the promoter happy by paying them back. Ms. Hogue wants to know how War Machine will be able to fight at the Bellator event. Chairman Geary said he will not fight because he is still suspended in Georgia. Will Fisher said while he was incarcerated, his license expired and he could pay a fine and get a new license. Graham Barron said that agreement made was never signed, and his license has expired in Georgia, so he does not have a current license. Chairman Geary said that he will not fight because he is still suspended in Georgia.

Discussion with Bert Wells, he had a couple of fall outs on his December 8th, 2012 show and had some possible replacements to fight, but could not get those approved. Chairman Geary said Mr. Wells kind of fell into a rough spot because previous to today's meeting the fight cards were set and locked in, now the ABC can help make the matches, and make possible replacements for fights.

Discussion with David Oblas, he wanted to see if his match permit for the toys for tots event on December 15, 2012 would be allowed to go past midnight. He said most all shows go beyond midnight. Chairman Geary asked Mr. Farr is all the paperwork is in. Mr. Farr said the application is not complete because there was no fee. Chairman Geary said that in the past the fee has been waived because it is a charity event. Mr. Farr said that the laws and rules state that the event permit must have the fee. Commissioner Thompson is saying that they approved it in the past to not have a fee. Chairman Geary asked Mr. Oblas if they ever charged an event fee for toys for tots, and Mr. Oblas said no. Mr. Farr also said according to rule 85-1-02 with a match permit is has to be submitted 15 days prior to the event being held. The event permit was not submitted before that time. Chairman Geary said that they waive that rule at times as well. Chairman Geary asked Vice Chairman Biello if the toys for tots event has always has the event fee waved, and Vice Chairman Biello said yes. Vice Chairman Biello also said the reason for stopping events at 12:00 midnight was for safety. He was saying the longer you would wait to start fights, the more the crowd would be drinking and it was unsafe for fighters to be around that many intoxicated people.

Motion to Approve the second event permit for the December 15th, 2012 Wild Bills Fight Night Toys for Tots event. Chairman Geary wanted to make sure Mr. Oblas was aware that it was to finish the event, not to drag it out until dawn. Mr. Farr wanted to know if there was a deadline to the event going past midnight, saying that he worries for the safety of the officials who will be working upwards of 6 or 7 hours. Chairman Geary agrees with Mr. Farr, and said he would be handled that issue on site, if needed. Chairman Geary said he would attend the event to make sure nothing would go wrong. Commissioner Thompson wants to make sure it is understood why there will be no fee for the second event permit. Chairman Geary makes a motion to approve the event permit, without a fee. Commissioner Thompson seconds. The commission votes 4-0 to approve second event permit. Vice Chairman Biello says that the only reason the fee if waived is because it is charity.

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Discussion with David Oblas wanted to make sure that the officials are in fact volunteers for the event, since it is for charity. However he will pay them if they asked to be. Also Mr. Oblas asked about why the eye exam is no longer on the application or on the website. Chairman Geary wants to make sure that the eye exam is in fact online still. Lastly, Mr. Oblas wanted to change his card. Chairman Geary said send it to ABC and give it to Mr. Farr.

Discussion with Commissioner Thompson on who has the authority to cancel a fight. Commissioner Thompson said they authorized Andy Foster to do so because he was on site, and knew the sport and what was needed to cancel. Commissioner Thompson said they have not extended that to the new director in Mr. Farr, and that it needs to be known who can in fact cancel the fight. Vice Chairman Biello says that Kelly Farr has the responsibility and knowledge on when to cancel the fight. Vice Chairman Biello asked Mr. Farr if they worked together in the past to cancel a fight. Mr. Farr said just one time he can remember because of lack of rounds. Vice Chairman Biello said the reason to cancel a fight is because not enough rounds or not an approved card. Chairman Geary said that reasons to cancel a fight could happen at the event that would cause it to be cancelled. Chairman Geary said one fighter could not get into town until Saturday and wanted a same day weigh in. Chairman Geary said that the rules allow a same day weigh in, however Mr. Farr felt it was a safety issue to do a same day weighs in. Chairman Geary said that Mr. Farr can cancel fights if the required rounds aren't met. Commissioner Thompson wants to know if Mr. Farr will be at the events. Mr. Farr said he would try to make as many of the events as possible. Chairman Geary ask Jon Marigliano, who is a chief official, if the Chief Official is at every fight. Jon said yes they are. Chairman Geary said that Mr. Farr can cancel fights due to lack of rounds, however the chief official should be at the event, if it comes down to a safety issue. Mr. Farr states rule §43-4B-13 (2) gives the authority to Mr. Farr, as the commission secretary, to summarily suspend or revoke the match permit or the license of a specific boxer should he feels safety is an issue. Chairman Geary said that anything safety issues need to be handled by the commission. Chairman Geary feels Mr. Farr's last call with safety was the wrong one. Mr. Farr disagrees with that. Chairman Geary said you cannot tell if a fighter will be dehydrated from flying in and doing a same day weigh in a week in advance. Mr. Farr said we work fights every weekend. We have worked two fights since Andy Foster left and we are about to work two more. Mr. Farr said he has done the job before, he knows the expectations of it, and how to get it done. Mr. Farr said if a safety issue is at hand, he will act on it. Chairman Geary said you will go against the commission tells you. Mr. Farr said yes, if safety is an issue, he will act on it. Commissioner Thompson asked Mr. Farr if he takes directions from the commission per the law. Mr. Farr said no. Commissioner Thompson asked the secretary of the commission if he does not take direction by law from the commission. Mr. Farr said he does not. Chairman Geary asked Mr. Farr if he has read 43-4B-5 then. Mr. Farr stated that he has. Chairman Geary said that you will act by rule of the commission. Mr. Farr said the rule states that the commission can assign duties. Chairman Geary states that is not what the rule states.

Motion to Approve Chairman Geary makes a motion saying that Kelly Farr does not have the authority to cancel a fight, subject to not having enough rounds or a safety issue, he must discuss it with a commission member. Also the chief official at the

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events, if he or she sees a safety issue they are able to cancel a fight on the spot. Vice Chairman Biello seconds that motion. Commissioner Kiker said that cancelling an event is a very serious thing. It effects the fighters, trainers, family, fans, everyone.

Discussion with Brett Moses on cancelling a fight. Mr. Moses says that someone has to do it but it is hard to do unless you get the proper guy in there to do it. He said you could have a guy who does a same day weigh in, and it might not be an issue. If you can make weight the same day then you would be ok. Vice Chairman said if you make the weight as weigh in, it doesn't matter what you do after that to with your weight. Graham Barron said by law the commission; the secretary or its authorized representative does have the authority to stop the fight if safety is an issue. Chairman Geary makes the motion, subject to lack of rounds, saying if there is a safety issue; Kelly Farr has to contact someone on the commission before acting to stop a fight. A chief official on site can act on a safety issue right then and there. Vice Chairman Biello seconds the motion. The commission votes 4-0 to approve.

Discussion with Vice Chairman Biello has no problem with himself help match the proper cards. He worked with Andy Foster in the past, and he feels he can help match proper fight cards. Graham Barron said as long as it is commission approved then nothing is breaking the law. Chairman Geary said that Vice Chairman Biello would be fine to do that to help make cards.

Motion to adjourn. Chairman Geary made a motion, Commissioner Thompson and the commission voted 4-0 to adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.